NLM

NEXT LEVEL MAGAZINE

The Geek Fantasy Mens Magazine

SDCC

THE ADVENTURES OF A MAN AND HIS CON EXPERIENCE

+

THE CON

» THE HISTORY OF CONVENTIONS

» CHECK OUT THE NEXT CON IN YOUR TOWN

INTERVIEW: JESSE JANE

THIS ADULT FILM STAR IS REVEALING HER GEEKY SIDE

Q & A

OUR SEXY GEEK GIVES HER HONEST ANSWERS

GYK: GIRL YOU KNOW

Alyssa and Amanda

BE A SUPERHERO

COMPUTER GRAPHIC MANIPULATION

JOSH MCMAHON

HOLLYWOOD CASTING COUCH

COMIC - TO - MOVIE

+

THE FUTURE OF COMIC BOOK MOVIES

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013 THENEXTLEVELMAGAZINE.COM

2013

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

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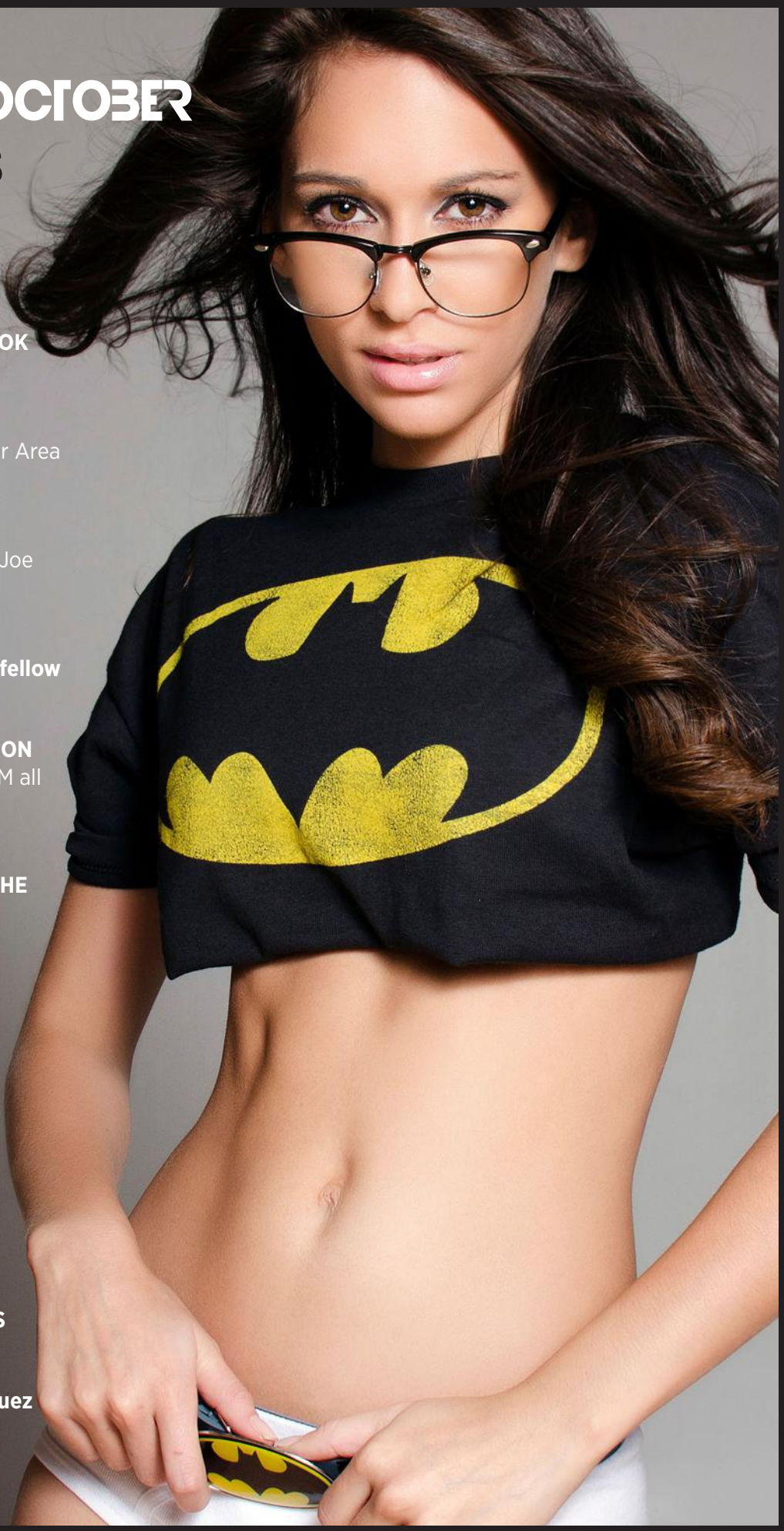

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NEXT LEVEL MAGAZINE

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[issn: 2154-7429 print]
[issn: 2164-3539 online]

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For Advertising:
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Printed by: MagCloud Publishing
3000 Hanover Street, MS 1051
Palo Alto, CA 94304

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Batman as Robin
Graphic Art: Brian Egger

Be Warned

You might notice that this issue is "super" saturated, and by those quotations, we mean literally. Not only are our articles featuring those men and women whose powers we pretended to have when we were eight, but our models have superheroes on the brain too! Something in the water? Maybe, but we thought we would honor the Holiday that permits us geeks to dress up like our favorite "supers" while everyone else is dressing up too!

Stay in touch with us!

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Next Level Magazine

This Aussie is dating her Xbox!

Photography by **Kyle Goldie**

Meet our sexy lady gamer: **Dee Dwyer**.

She has no problem telling NLM how she likes her "lollies" and what she's got going on under her "little headset".

Height
169cm (approx 5'5")

Measurements
33-27-33

Current job
Full time Model and Stunt Performer

Hometown
Blue Mountains, Australia

"I'm totally in love with my Xbox and its getting pretty serious"

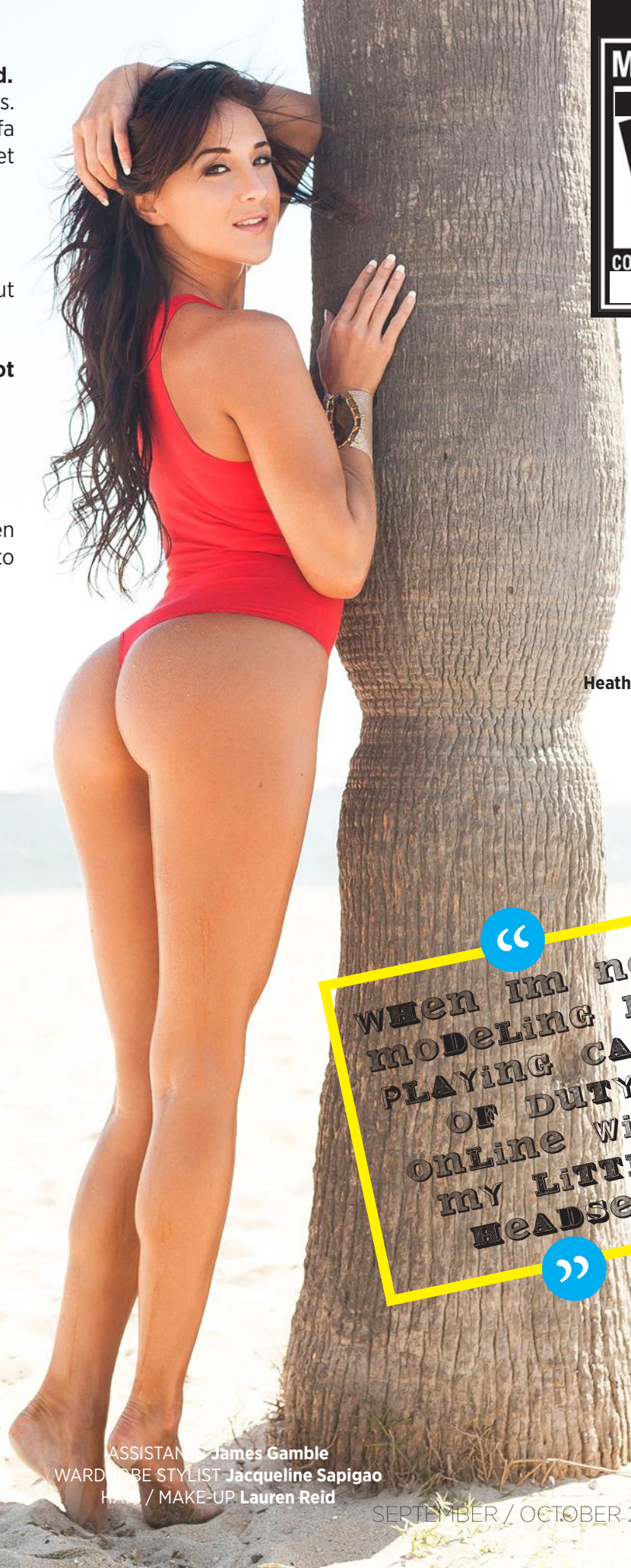
Give us the dirty on your geek card.
I have lots of secret geeky things. I wear glasses, am addicted to Fifa and COD on the Xbox and never get off my computer!

Favorite superhero?
Can I say a powerful girl?
(We think she means powergirl but we will let this one slide).

Finish this sentence: When I'm not modeling, I'm...
You know it: playing Call Of Duty online with my little headset.

Your guilty pleasure?
Eating sour lollies as soon as I open my eyes and right before I go to sleep.

Favorite thing about the opposite sex?
Well... I love that men can always lift heavy things... I have this new thing lately where I try to piggy back guys. Most guys refuse but I manage to rope a few in. A lot of the time I end up collapsing on the floor with 90kgs on top of me. Go figure, being 48kgs!!



MATURE 17+
M
CONTENT RATED BY
NEXT LEVEL

Swimsuit by
American Apparel

Jewelry by
Heather Gardner Jewelry

"When Im not modeling Im playing Call of Duty online with my little headset"

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Facebook **/AUSdeedwyer**
Instagram **@deedwyer1988**

ASSISTANT **James Gamble**
WARDROBE STYLIST **Jacqueline Sapigao**
HAIR / MAKE-UP **Lauren Reid**

Lauryn Bocook

Next Level is proud to crown our sexiest computer nerd!

Photography by **Kyle Goldie**

ASSISTANTS **Andy McCallie**
WARDROBE STYLIST **Jacqueline Sapigao**
HAIR / MAKE-UP **Danielle Blaquera**

Height	5' 7"
Measurements	34–23–34
Current Job	Model
Hometown	Jacksonville, FL

Let's see that geek card. Throw down!
I would say the geekiest thing about me is I can build a computer from scratch.

Favorite Superhero?
That is a difficult one! I like Catwoman but she is a supervillainess, so I would have to say SpiderMan. He is sexy, sleek, and mysterious!

How do you celebrate?
I love desserts, so make lots of yummy sweet snacks, dance, and play games!

COMPUTER HOTTIE

Swimsuit by
Odina Surf

What is your superhero Halloween costume of choice?
Catwoman! Whip and all!

Favorite thing to do when you're not modeling?
I would say eat or dance! ... I love to put on some fast beat music and pop-it-like-its-hot!

What is the coolest costume you've ever seen?
Coolest costume I have seen was an Avatar costume. It looked so real I felt like I was in the movie. I looked around and make sure I wasn't in distant world of Pandora!

Favorite thing about the opposite sex?
Their deep manly voice is my favorite thing!

What costume could a guy wear that would turn you on?
Dracula! "I vvvwant to suck your blood!"

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THE CON

Comic-Cons or conventions for just comics, science fiction, movies, video games and animation have been going on since the 1960's. Designed to house the greatest artists and their product of any of those respected genres, the "con" is now more than just a place for "geeks" to speak languages no one else understands. The Con is a place to share the lore, history, and development of incredible artists and creators and, of course, buy really cool and exclusive merchandise! It's a place to meet the creators of your favorite stories, games and drawings and hear them talk about their inspiration. It's a destination, a yearly event, for the fans to meet the artists in the biggest rooms in cities around the world and experience it in a super-saturated environment filled with hundreds and thousands of people that all have a similar obsession. It's the ultimate cool and an event to plan for every year, and yes, even make a special "uniform" specifically to boast your favorite character.

SEPTEMBER

COMIC [1st]
MILWAUKEE COMIC CON
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

ANIME [5th - 8th]
ALICON 2013
Mill Lane, Leicester, England

ANIME/COMIC/GAME/SCI-FI [6th - 8th]
DODECA-CON II: THE REVENGE
Columbia, Missouri, USA

ANIME/COMIC/GAME/SCI-FI [6th - 8th]
CINCINNATI CON
Covington, Kentucky, USA

ANIME [6th - 8th]
UMICON DAYTONA 2013
Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

ANIME/COMIC/GAME/SCI-FI [7th - 8th]
BALTIMORE COMIC-CON 2013
Baltimore, Maryland, USA

ANIME/COMIC/SCI-FI [7th]
SCOTLAND MCM EXPO 2013
Glasgow, Scotland

HORROR [12th - 15th]
SCARE-A-CUSE
New York City, New York, USA

ALL GENRES [13th - 15th]
CINCINNATI COMIC EXPO
Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

ALL GENRE [13th - 15th]
NAUTICON 2013
Provincetown, Massachusetts, USA

ANIME/COMIC/GAME/SCI-FI [14th]
CGA SHOW CYSTAL RIVER
Crystal River, Florida, USA

ALL GENRES [20th - 22nd]
ROCCON 2013
Rochester, New York, USA

ANIME [20th - 22nd]
CAMPANIME 2013
Woodstock Valley, Connecticut, USA

HORROR [20th - 22nd]
HORROR REALM'S FALL CON
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

COMIC [21st - October]
ASHEVILLE COMIC EXPO
Asheville, North Carolina, USA

COMIC [21st - 22nd]
PROJECT COMICCON
St Louis, Missouri, USA

COMIC [21st]
DAN CON FAL 2013
Orland Park, Illinois, USA

ANIME/STEAMPUNK [21st-22nd]
ANI-FI
South Bend, Indiana, USA

GAMING [26th - 29th]
EUROGAMER EXPO 2013
Warwick Rd, London, England

COMIC [27th - 29th]
PITTSBURG COMICON
Monroeville, Pennsylvania, USA

ANIME [27th - 29th]
ANIME WEEKEND ATLANTA
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

FANTASY CON [27th - 29th]
MYTHS AND LEGIONS CON
Greenwood Village, Colorado, USA

COMIC [28th - 29th]
GRANITE STATE COMICON
Manchester, New Hampshire, USA

ALL GENRES [28th]
THE GEEK GATHERING
Sheffield, Alabama, USA

OCTOBER

SCI-FI [4th - 6th]
FENCON X
Addison, Texas, USA

ANIME [4th - 6th]
TOMODACHI /TOMODACHI FEST
Boise, Idaho, USA

COMIC [5th]
MCBA FALLCON
Saint Paul, Minnestota, USA

ALL GENRES [5th]
NYANCON
Kirtland, Ohio, USA

ANIME/COMIC/SCI-FI [5th - 6th]
LONDON FILM + COMIC CON
London, England

ANIME/COMIC/FANTASY [5th]
KRAKEN CON
South San Francisco, California, USA

ANIME [10th - 13th]
NEW YORK COMIC CON
New York City, New York, USA

COMIC/SCI-FI [11th - 13th
ENCOUNTERS 2013
Wichita, Kansas, USA

ANIME [11th - 13th]
AKI CON
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

ANIME [11th - 13th]
TSUBASACON
Huntington, West Virgina, USA

ALL GENRES [12th]
GRAND RAIPIDS COMIC CON
Wyoming, Michigan, USA

SCI-FI [18th-20th]
MILE HI CON 45
Denver, Colorado, USA

SCI-FI [18th - 20th]
FANDOM CON 2013
Pensacola, Florida, USA

ALL GENRES [19th - 20th]
ARMAGEDDON EXPO
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

ALL GENRES [19th]
KOKOMO-CON
Kokomo, Indiana, USA

ALL GENRES [20th]
CLEVELAND COMIC, CARD AND NOSTALGIA SHOW
Fairview Park, Ohio, USA

ANIME [25th - 27th]
BANZAICON 2013
Columbia, South Carolina, USA

ANIME [26th - 27th]
UNPLUGGED EXPO
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ANIME/GAME [31st - Nov 3rd]
YOUMACON
Detriot, Michigan, USA

SCI-FI [31st - Nov 3rd]
WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION
Brighton, East Sussex, UK

Sub Zero [left], Katana [right]
GRAPHIC ART **Josh McMahon**

#Follow her @RachelAMullins

You've got quite the geek card "gold star". Let our readers know your elite client:
Nintendo is a long time client of mine and I have worked with Mr. Miyamoto.

Incredible! And if that wasn't cool enough, let us know your favorite superhero:
The Tick.

When you're not gracing our pages, what are you up to?
[I] ride my moped around my neighborhood in the Hollywood Hills and pretend I'm Italian.

Don't think we were ready for that one! Is your guilty pleasure just as much of a suprise?
[Yep! I love] stale gummy bears.

Height: 5'9"
Measurements: 34 - 26 - 35
Hometown: Detroit, MI

Actress living in Hollywood, CA

Photography by
Kyle Goldie

Stylist
Ali Levine
Asst.
Katarina Rossi
Rachel Mullins

Swimsuit by
Ola Vida

Jewelry by
Devon Leigh

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AD PAGE
We know our model Caitlyn more than qualifies for a perfectly good full page filler, and our readers concur, but we welcome your business and encourage your AD placement to take her place!
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GRAPHIC ART

NOW YOU CAN LOOK LIKE YOU CAME RIGHT OUT OF A COMIC!

Get up close and personal with the incredible talent who creates the coolest comics, gamer and movie iconic characters and brings them to life using your image as inspiration.

Lady Terminator
GRAPHIC ART **Josh McMahon**

SUPERHERO

There are some pretty incredible artists out there in the world and we are so thankful that some of them decided that drawing for comics was their craft. Artists like Jack Kirby, Neal Adams and Jim Lee could arguably be in most comic fans' top 10 list. Now that we're growing up in the age of computers, the ink-to-paper is just one-way to create a drawing or animated story. Welcome to the age of computer graphics!

Now, talented artists can be seen by the world via the Internet and some even argue that digital is the new ink, but the purists would disagree. We draw a similar parallel to movie buffs who aim to challenge the artistry of "digital" filmmaking in a world once owned by 35mm film.

Regardless of your opinion on the "pure art" standing, you have to admit that the new graphic artists, who create their drawings inside a computer, have a seriously cool angle on the new skill.

Graphic Artists like Josh McMahon work for major graphic design companies and have some not-so-hidden talents like creating incredible superhero manipulations for the public. It's not a secret that Josh has his own side-passion and his talents have definitely caught the attention of some pretty major people including MTV who showed Josh's Lady Captain America to it's inspiration: Alison Brie, the then reigning Miss America. She was totally down.

We sat down with Josh McMahon (not in person since we're in the US and he's in Australia) and discussed his art and what it takes to make the Average Joe into an epic Super Hero.

INTERVIEW

How did you get started in graphic design and photo manipulation?

I left school at 16 and began to study a Design Foundations course at a tertiary institute in Sydney, followed by a year of studying Fine Arts and finally 2 years of studying Graphic Design. I got into photo manipulation almost by accident. I had practiced photo manipulating during my studies but it wasn't much more than removing skin blemishes and repairing damaged photographs. I never really knew what was possible with a piece of software like Photoshop until about 5 years later when I stumbled across a website devoted to people who brought their favorite comic heroes to life with photo-manipulation. I saw some really awesome work done by very creative people and said to myself 'I want to give that a go'.

What made you focus on manipulating real photos with superhero costumes?

I started creating things I wanted to see on film. When I started doing all of this it was at a time when we didn't really have the influx of superhero movies coming out like we do today. It was pretty much Batman, Spider-Man and X-men. The big thing for me was that it was fun! I just enjoyed coming up with scenarios in my head, justifying why a character would wear a ridiculous looking outfit. It's always important to me that the outfit be practical and look like something someone would actually wear.

Do you do any other types of graphic design?

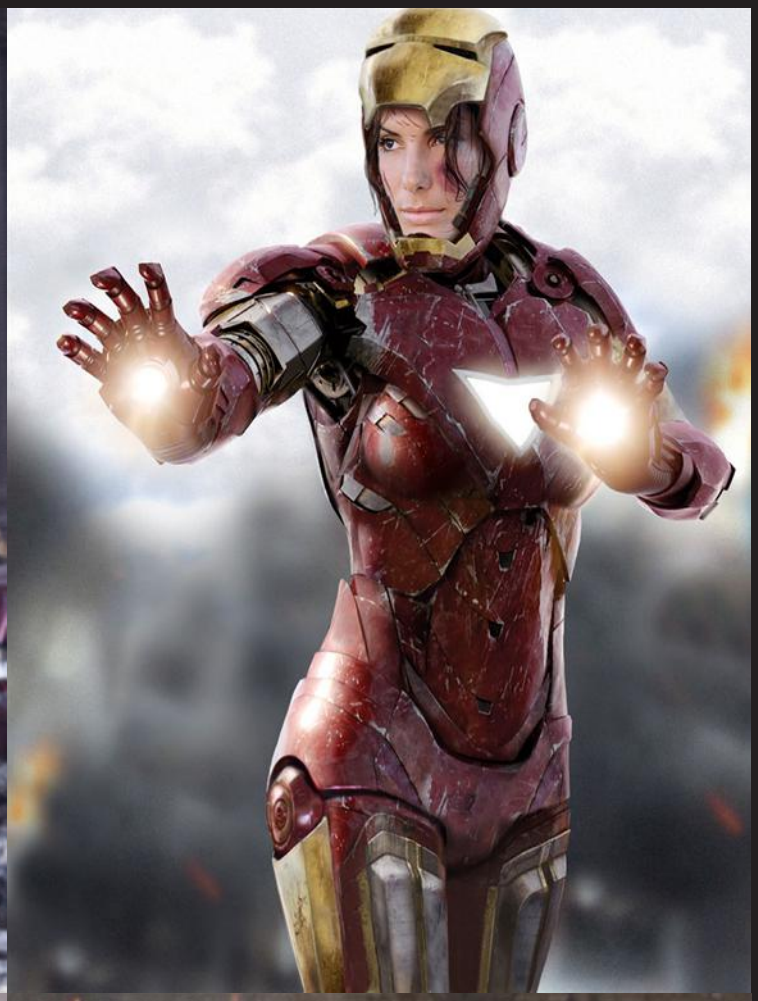
Yes, my day job is a graphic designer. I do regular photo manipulation work and image retouching, illustration, logos, photography, print and typographical design.

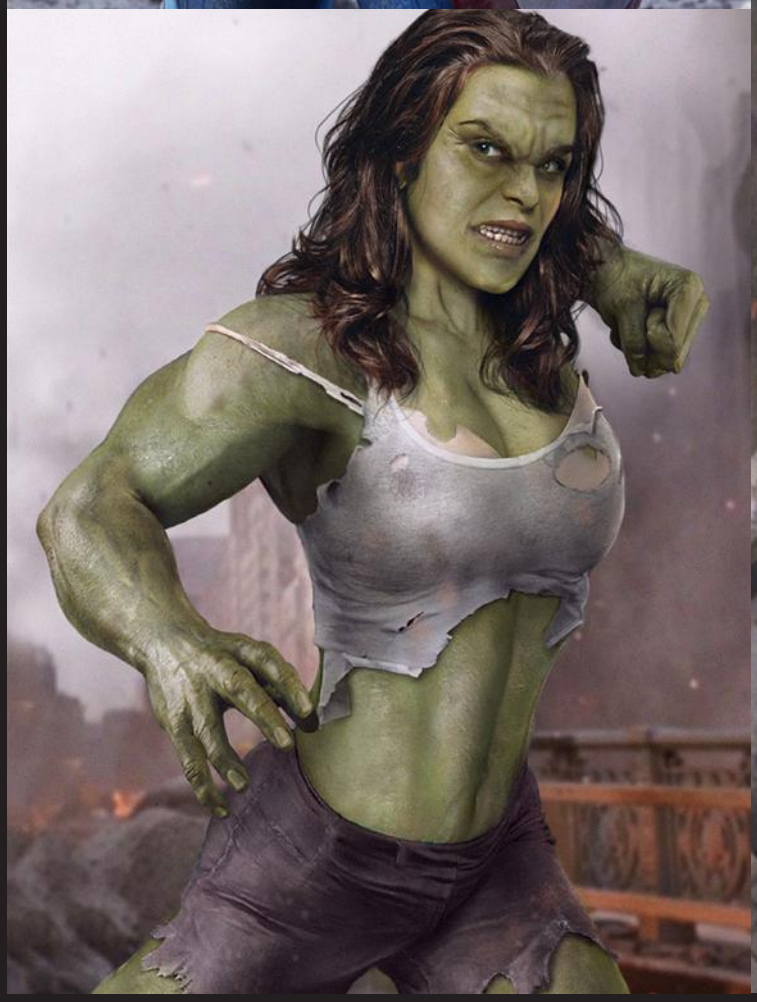
Are you a comic geek yourself?

I don't consider myself a die-hard comic fan. I prefer to buy graphic novels than wait for monthly installments. As such, my comic reading tends to be about 9-12 months behind everyone else. I'm a huge Batman fan so I read a lot of Batman related stuff and I do delve into the wider DC universe occasionally with Justice League, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman and Superman. I use to be into X-men awhile back but for whatever reason, I fell out of favor with that series.

What are some of your favorite photo manipulations that you've done in the past?

I don't know if I really have any particular favorite because I'm





"With Jaimie Alexander I knew immediately shes who I would cast"

always looking at past work thinking 'I should have done this or that'. I do love my Wonder Woman sequel design. It's one of the few pieces I've done where I can ignore the flaws because it brings to life the actress I always wanted in the role. The most fun I had was creating the Lady Avengers series whereby I reimagined the Avengers as an all female cast.

What are some designs you are looking to create in the future?

I have a few ideas in the pipeline. I've been really wanting to try my hand at doing a photo manipulation series of Disney's Gargoyles for a long time. That was second only to Batman: The Animated Series growing up, for me. [It] is something that has been on the to-do list for a while. Something I've always wanted to tackle in a photo manipulation is Witchblade, but I've yet to figure out a satisfying way to create it. At the moment, the future is looking more illustrative. I'm trying to enhance my drawing and painting skills which as a bonus is helping make my photo manipulations better.

Has your talent allowed you to travel or do things you never thought you would be doing?

Not really. The best I can say is it's gotten me the odd side job here and there and the occasional mention on some popular websites, which is cool.

Do you have any other geek moments in your life?

I am a bit of a film and TV nerd. I have a tendency to wait until a TV show comes out on DVD and then just watch the entire series in one massive session rather than wait for new episodes each week. I managed to get through almost two-and-a-half seasons of Breaking Bad within a couple of days. I'm not a big gamer but I do have a PS3 and love my fighting and sports games.

BEHIND THE MANIPULATION

We wanted to know the mind behind the graphic manipulations so we asked Josh what went through his mind when choosing the ladies and the costumes.

LADY AVENGERS

[Choosing] the female Avengers, (Iron Maiden, Thora, and Miss America) I was trying to think of female equivalents to the male actors.

Sandra Bullock was the closest I could think of to being a female version of Robert Downey Jr in terms of personality and age. She has a bit of a smartass attitude which isn't quite as sharp as Downey Jr but it's close enough.

Amber Heard was an easy choice for the female Thor. I look at her and think if Chris Hemsworth's Thor had sister, she'd probably be the one to cast, plus she is beyond beautiful. It was more a case of who else but Amber Heard?

Alison Brie as female Captain America was a little different. I originally planned to have Jessica Biel because I considered her more in line with being a female equivalent to Chris Evans but she just never looked right in the role. It took me months to figure out what to do with that manipulation, to the point where I nearly threw in the towel. I got to Alison Brie because I stumbled across an image of her from one of the Community episodes where she was holding a gun, looking all super serious, and thought 'she looks like she could actually kick some butt', so I did a test sketch with her and it worked; she became my Captain America. I'm glad I changed that casting choice because ultimately that female Captain America piece went viral and resulted with an MTV video interview where the reporter showed the artwork to Alison. [That] was possibly the coolest moment in my artist career and it mostly came about due to a happy accident.

WONDER WOMAN

I've been a big supporter of **Jaimie Alexander** as Wonder Woman for years. I stumbled across her on the series Kyle XY by pure accident when flicking through TV channels around 2008. Up until that time I was using Cobie Smulders as the face for my Wonder Woman designs due to her being rumored as Joss Whedon's preference [back] when he was attached to direct the Wonder Woman movie. With Jaimie, I kind of knew immediately she's who I'd cast. The thing that struck me was not only her beauty but her versatility in the role she was playing on the TV series: she could play strong, scary, smart, innocent and vulnerable. She also had this steely determination in her eyes which won me over, a real intensity that I would like to see on film. The sad truth is no matter how much I'd like her to be the character on film, it's not going to happen, but she's still getting work in another superhero series in Thor as Lady Sif which isn't too bad a swap. The more work she gets the better because I'm a fan of hers one way or another.

September 2013

GYK

Girl You Know

ALYSSA STRINGFELLOW

411

Hometown: Taupo, New Zealand
Height: 5'7"
Age: 27
Measurements: 35 - 26 - 34
Relationship Status: Single

Photography by **Kent Markus**

We are beyond stoked to have our first GYK from New Zealand! Let's get a closer look at our September 2013 GYK...

Right off the bat, we noticed a tattoo on your arm. What's the story there?

I have a lotus flower on my right wrist and an orchid on my left forearm.
I love flowers and one day I'll be a walking bouquet!

You are wearing a very specific panty/bra set and we are big, big fans. You definitely have a qualifying nerd card.

I love zombies and Star Wars. My cat's name is Chewbacca and if I find something super funny, I snort a little.

You definitely look like you're having an awesome time in that outfit you've got on! So if you were dating NLM, we can expect random dance outbursts?

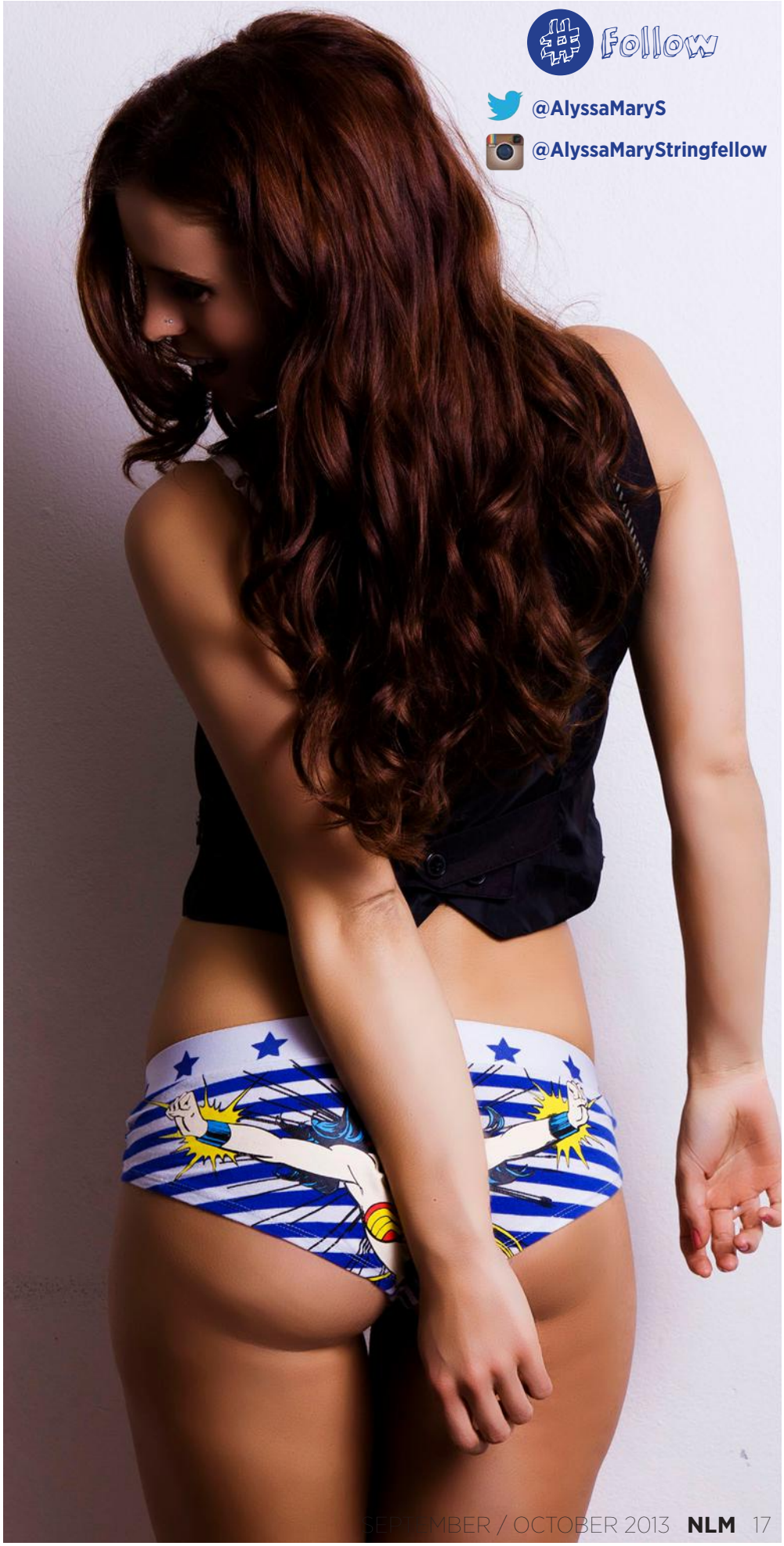
I will break into a boogie! I call them 30 second dance parties. They bring me joy and shame anyone standing next to me. I dance around my house in my undies.

No complaints here! What do we have to do to get past that first date with you to make it to dance mode?

Just make me laugh. I love a good sense of humor. I'm a goof. There's nothing worse than someone sitting across the table from you spending more time on their phone than talking to you. Honestly, if you're not a fan of zombies or really ~~explitive~~ sci-fi movies [like] Sharknado or Sharktopus, then just dont waste your time.

Excellent. We've got those on our list! Any more tips to getting on your good side?

I don't like romance. The way to my heart is through sci-fi and cookies, definitely cookies. I'll do almost anything for a cookie.



We know that you're doing regular spots on TV, but we have to know, what's on your geek card?

I graduated with a graphic design degree [so] I nerd out working on my website!

You're a model, actress and have a full time job? Busy lady!

[I have a] corporate career in Advertising [as well as] being a professionally trained hip hop dancer [and] volunteer with animals for Gentle Barn.

Height
5'9"

Measurements
34-26-34

Relationship Status
Single

Hometown
Berkley, MI

#Follow her @AmberSoleilla

Photography by
Kyle Goldie
Asst.
Brandon Matylewicz
Haley Wilson

Swimsuit by
Frankie's Bikinis

Stylist
Shannon Campbell

Make-Up Artist
Corrina Cooke

Hair
Drew Noreen

EVER WANTED TO BE THE HERO?

Want a great piece of personal artwork?
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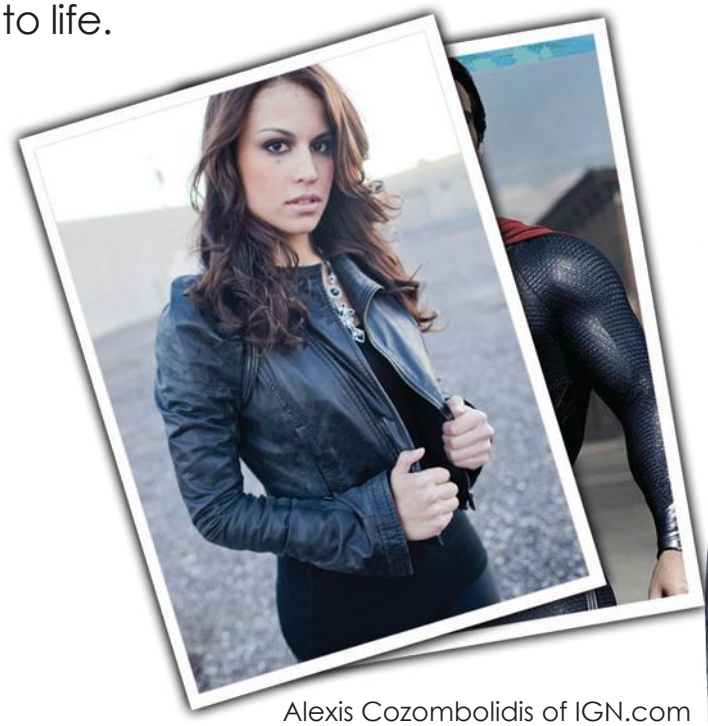
Fan Art Exhibit specializes in the digital manipulation and illustration of regular people into their favorite Comic Book, TV, Movie or Pop Culture character.

Whoever the person or character, **Fan Art Exhibit** can bring your superhero dreams to life.



Alexis Cozombolidis of IGN.com
asked to be turned in the 'Woman of Steel'
Follower her on Twitter @LetsGetLexi

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NLM EXCLUSIVE PEEK

GETTING VERY CLOSE WITH ADULT FILM STAR

JESSE JANE

WHO KNEW HER FANTASIES WERE OUR FANTASIES?

GETTING SOME ADULT ATTENTION

Interview by **Lance Paul**

Photography by **Kyle Goldie**

Styling **Haley Wilson**
Asst **Jameson Gamble**

Swimsuit by **Lybethras**

We have with us today the beautiful and talented Adult Superstar: Jesse Jane. This will be her first foray into the nerd culture with your friendly neighborhood Nerds!

LP So Jesse, I've done my research and have perused the blogs and other interviews you have done in the past and I have found the nerd populous left wanting. All around I can have a full history of your experiences and path to Adult Super stardom, but nowhere is there any mention of any nerd love. Can you fill in our faithful readers and let their geek hearts sleep tonight: how geeky can you get?

JJ Well, I am a nerd! I love to dress up all the time! You should see all my costumes, anywhere from Slaves Princess to Super Girl.

LP Do you Game?

JJ I love playing video games. I play Call of Duty and Madden. I'll even go to an arcade and play old school Pac Man , Galaga, and Asteroids !!!!!

LP So now I know you had your start in Hooters and the now defunct Hawaiian Tropics girls. I myself have dated a few and know that this has occasionally been a breeding ground for Hot Nerds! Can you tell us any full geek-out moments you may have experienced with yourself or fans?

JJ Let's just say I did an episode of Entourage and we were at Comic Con and I came out with the comic "Pussy Patrol." You will never believe how many people come up to me about that and quote the lines from that episode and its classic funny line: " We lick ass by day and kick ass by nite!".

LP As talented as you are in the Adult Film business, I feel like you are the only one that can handle a nerd question to this caliber. I know that your first experience in the Adult world was with a woman. Given the same chance to start off in the Adult Comic Porn World, which female Superhero would you pick and why?

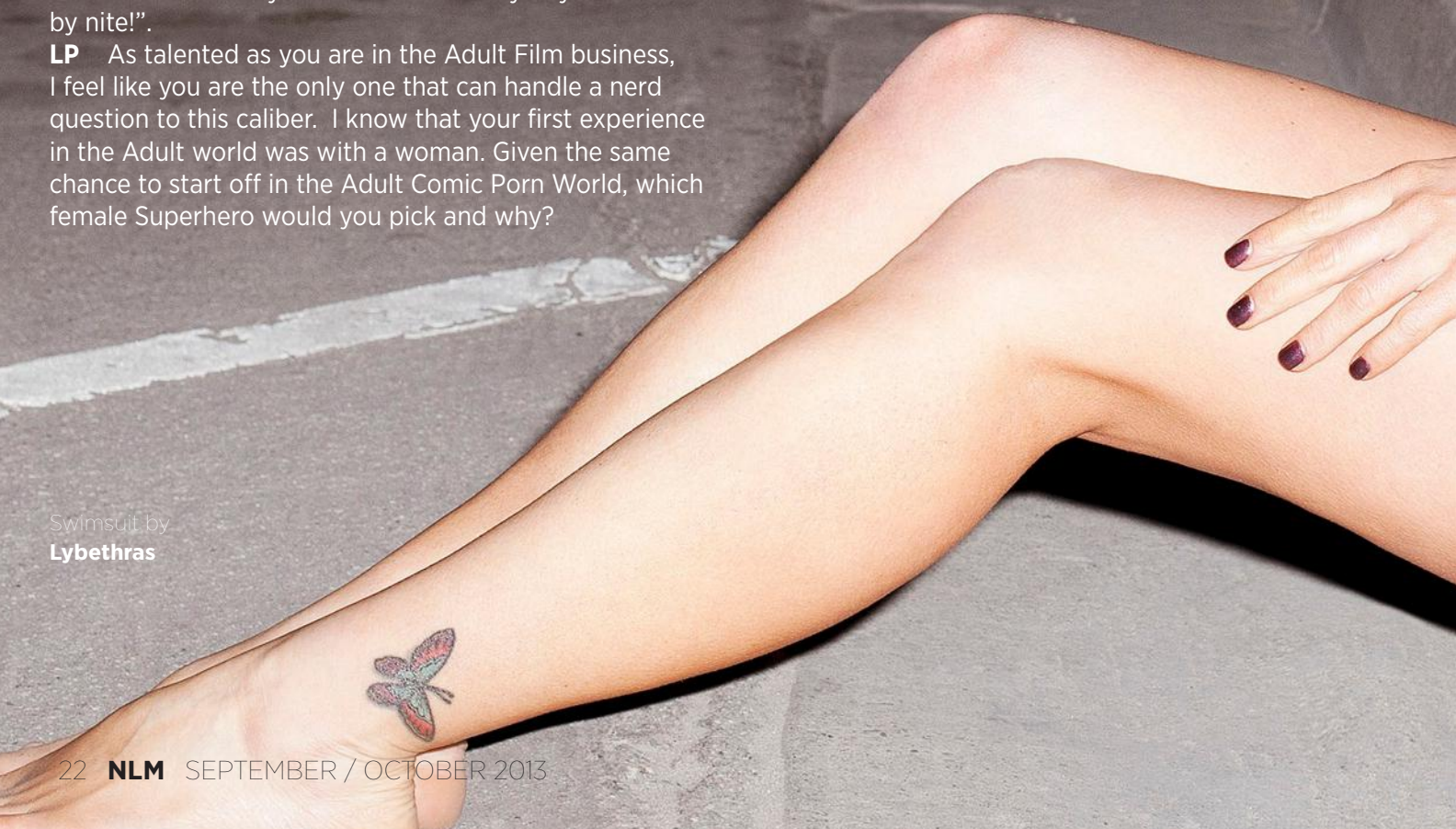
JJ Funny! I would pick a very old school super hero: She-Ra. When I grew up she was a bad ass and I thought I was strong like her so I would pick her as my first. I [would] dress up like Catwoman because I'm a feisty little feline! Meeee Ooowwww!

LP Do you hide your nerdom from the hotties you bring home or are you completely honest and hide nothing?

JJ I don't hide [it]. I love being a nerd and making people laugh. I have no shame in my game all the way to my laugh with my snort! And I wouldn't run away from your action figures! I'd use them to play and then we would turn into those characters ourselves and battle!

LP I know that every geek has thought about it and there's nothing closer to a woman's dreams of making love on a bed of roses than maybe doing the nerd crazy on a bed of comics. Would you answer your significant others' request if asked to do this and which comics would you chose?

JJ Of course I would because I love trying anything new and I'm down for anything! I would want all kinds of comics to literally be able to say "I was on top of them all, anywhere from Superman to Wonder Woman. They can be properly mounted!".



Swimsuit by
Lybethras

"I was on top of them all anywhere from Superman to Wonderwoman

they can all be properly mounted"

Jesse Jane
NLM
TheNextLevelMagazine.com

Could you give NLM some 411 about who the real Jesse Jane is?

I'm a Texas born girl, fun, crazy, wild, and down for anything fun. I love a good rush, I love sports, and anyone that can keep me on my toes and challenge me. I'm also a big dork that will sing in the shower or dance around in my house while I'm cleaning. I'm like a tomboy, but luckily don't look like one.

What do men do that turns you on?

I love their eyes and the way they smell!

"I wouldnt run away from your action figures id use them to play"

Centerfold Swimsuit by:
Sugar Strings Swimwear

[Left] Swimsuit by:
Lybethras Swimwear

[Right] Swimsuit by:
Mila Bikinis

Follow

Facebook **/JesseJaneRocks**
Twitter **@JesseJane**
Instagram **@TheJesseJane**

If we were dating you, what would you be like as a girlfriend?

I guess you can say I'm the perfect wingman, and a great girlfriend who will always keep you busy in the bedroom.

What would we have to do to make you happy when you're having a bad day?

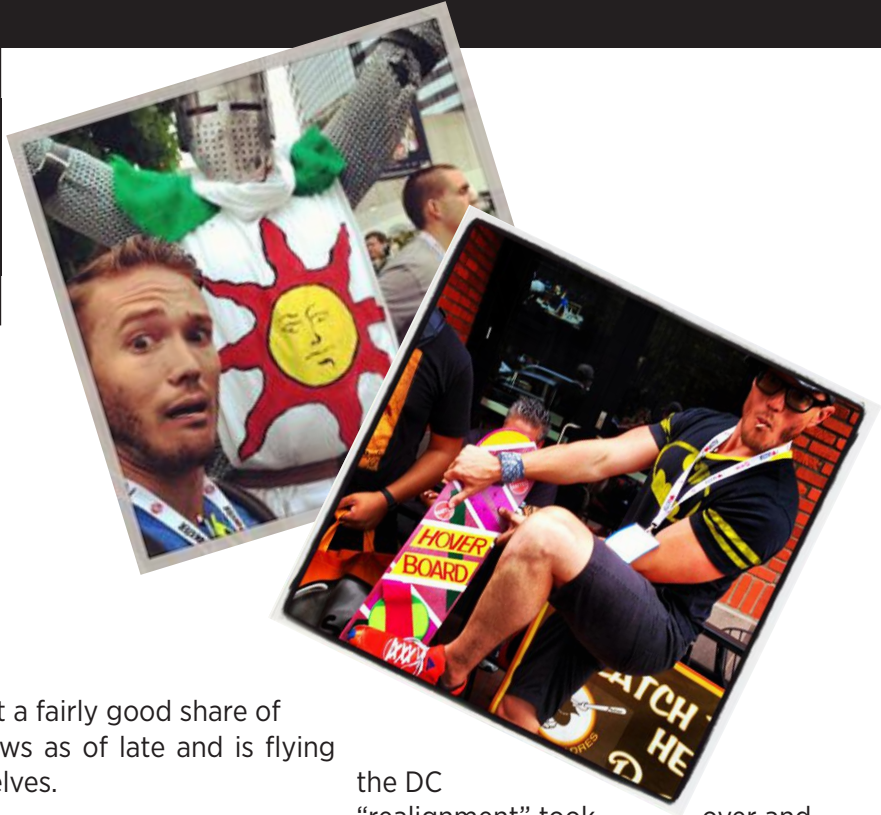
Pinkberry!

SAN DIEGO

EXCLUSIVE SDCC

COMIC CON

THE ADVENTURES OF ONE MAN AND THE CON



Though I woke up this morning knowing I had only one panel to cover — on my favorite Superior Spider-Man– I felt the urge to show up early. Thank God I did, because I was treated to an exceptional DC 101: Essentials panel with their talented Editor-In-Chief, Bob Harras, and the company's other editorial big hitters: John Cunningham and Bobbie Chase, in the same room. If you have been following my most Marvelous coverage, you know very well that I eat, breathe, and geek out over Marvel. Surprisingly enough, the "house that Supes built" more-than-opened my eyes. DC Comics discussed their latest strategies with a very tight, admirable panel that has seemingly revitalized their line since I last took a look. It's rather arguable that DC has taken a beating in recent times, in terms of its competition with the blossoming Marvel cinematic world and their rivals' vast array of now movie-related comic titles over the last couple years.

No matter which side of the fence you find yourself on, there's no question each company has had its share of immense geek backlash with all the serious changes. The New 52 has been a success — despite all its pundits — and Superior Spider-Man has caught a fairly good share of solid reviews as of late and is flying off the shelves.

Maybe web-heads are starting to accept all the nonsense that is Octavio Parker, or not. I was smart enough to slide in the prior panel, with all the potential that was picketing fangirls/boys asking for SSM writer Dan Slott's head on a sticky-stick. Within these walls, even The Marvel Apostle himself has learned all kinds of interesting facts about where DC is planning to go on all sides of the mask.

> "Now I kinda like the DCU oh well shit happens"

From comics with their new Justice League-centered Trinity War and Forever Evil reign, to movies and their planned rebranding of the DC animated world with the New 52 stamp. Two years have passed since the DC "realignment" took over and it has done wonders for the Warner Bros/DC pocket books, as you can tell from increased comic sales and the box office crushing Man of Steel, and the soon-to-be "Batfleck" sequel.

The biggest event coming down DC starts off with a supervillains orchestrated Trinity War, which pits the US government's Justice League of America vs. the classic Superman/Batman/Wonder Woman run Justice League vs. the ever dapper John Constantine headed Justice League Dark. After the dust settles and capes burn, the Super-villains will have taken control of the world leading to the DC main event of the year: Forever Evil. This will begin with a Villains Month in September, with all of the New 52 books being replaced by the likes of dastardly powerhouses Lex Luthor, General Zod, Joker, and even Killer Frost (hello Injustice!).

DC is also now all New 52, from comics to animation and feature films. Sitting through the panel/Q&A though, still left me with the vibe of a company that is still shrouded

in the Golden Age, paralleled with a push for more of the digital. It's a truly twisted function. The first question on the Q&A really delved into this notion, when a young fan was asked how he read his comics: digital or print. His response elicited a roar of applause from the crowd when he preferred the traditional smell of paper — something both Marvel and DC should remember when trying to push Digital on us Fans. The lad was then awarded a Kindle FIRE for all his concerns. Oh, the irony!

Ending the DC101 panel can really be summed up by a noted quote from John Cunningham: "Have you seen our films? We don't do anything fast.". The question I was left wondering at the end of all this was: if nothing is done fast, will that ever be fast enough to catch up to the behemoth that is Marvel?

Sure, now you've got Superman/ Batman in the works — "Batffleck" will don the cowl — but Marvel just showed off 3 of their latest blockbusters on Saturday at the Con, with a more promising teaser than you fellas for a fourth.

After my foray back into the original capes and cowls, I was ready for the Arachnid. Unless you have been living under a rock in the past year, Peter Parker is dead and is "never coming back" (until May 2014, you know...) and the Doctor Octopus has taken his place and is here to stay.

cont...

Lance Paul with Hell Boy [L] and Deadpool [R]

I walked into this panel equipped with full riot control gear! Thankfully, both Kidpool and an overweight Rogue sat next to me, thus my life was sure to be saved.

To all my ock-shock, the Superior panel offered both a very controlled and docile crowd, thanks in part to the Alpha Dog/fratboy qualities of both Arune Singh and Nick Spencer (The Superior Foes of Spider-Man). There was barely a mention of: "Peter Parker is dead and not coming back. No ghost.... No Parker." With charm, humor and, perhaps, suspense, Marvel detailed the future of Spidey-Ock and how the company has fully embraced the Superior attitude of their Spidey books. Despite ruffling the red spandex panties of many Marvel die-hards, there's no doubt the controversy has resulted in even more readers to the Spidered-side.

"It's amazing to be part of a story that upset so many people. It just means that you guys care about what happens, whether you loved it or hated it," stated Superior's assistant editor Ellie Pyle.

The next 18-24 issues of The Superior Spider-Man seems to have Spider-Ock maybe biting off more then he can spin. Beginning with the return of Spider-Man 2099, the editor went on to compare the impact of issue #20 of Superior (with Black Cat) to Amazing Spider-Man #698 — when all the body switching first began.

Finishing up the Spider-Ock announcements was the inevitable first meeting between Superior Spider-Man and (newly canceled) "Flash Venom" Thompson, aptly named "Darkest Hour." The panel even teased: what would happen if Parker's favorite symbiotic was to ever come home to daddy and find out...there's a new daddy.

The rebranding of the The Superior Spider-Man team-up will finally tell the tale of what Spider-Ock has planned with his collection of Sinister Six ole-mates; a new bowling league, it is not. Marvel's latest entree in the world of graphic novels will also tapper over to Spidey with some of the best news of the day for Parker fans! Peter Parker is back with a sister, co-written with Mark Waid, but sadly, the story will not be in current continuity since the events take place before Ock plays a bad version of "Big" on Parker called Family Business. The question I have is: if he has a sister, where is she now?

Probably joining the X-Men!

The future of the Scarlett Spider and the newly minted Superior Carnage also offered Kraven the Hunter who is coming for Scarlett in October, with no shot at Trick or Treats. According to writer Chris Yost (X-Force), there's enjoyment in "watching Kaine's very uneasy growth into a hero. We've moved him to Houston. He's got this second chance at life and things are actually getting pretty good. So of course, this is where it all kind of goes bad." In the pages of the limited series: Superior Carnage, Kevin Shinick is building a very new and very superior Carnage that will bring him right back into the Marvel universe. Whatever that means, hopefully he will just continue his crazy killing spree.

Despite all of the (cue Kanyeezus...) flashing lights, and even the ghost-like qualities of a phone in the floating voice of the scared-for-his-life Dan Slott (least according to a fellow conspiracy nerd behind me) answering fan questions, The Superior Spider-Man panel left me surprisingly upbeat. It certainly helped to have a shout out to the team on Man Without Fear, for Daredevil has without a doubt become the most consistent Marvel comic to his the shelves in years. Now, I kind of like the DCU. Whatever. Shit happens.

So, congregants, my misted-over eyes just ascertained a perplexing situation: to my left, I have two Cloud Cosplayers asking me where I got my Aquaman kicks (I have a propensity for wearing everything DC), and a, perhaps, first ever black Emma Frost man/woman who I PRAY has been eyeing this section of the room for the last half hour for my seat. Either/or, it's time this writer hit the bricks and yearn a saving grace from all this madness that is Comic Con. And that's only one day!

> "The Superior Spider Man panel left me suprisingly upbeat"

What is the coolest costume you've ever seen?

So many, but I think the coolest is when people go all out and literally look as if they were from a scene out of a sci-fi movie! I say if you're going to wear a costume, go all out, maybe even role play a bit!

If you could dress up as any superhero, who would you dress as?

Probably catwomen because she is extremely sexy and a total badass. I hear I resemble a cat and it may be kind of fun playing dress up in a latex or leather jumpsuit.

What costume could a guy wear that would turn you on?

The stereo typical "nerd" look is always hot but I like when a guy gets creative and shows his personality through his costume. Putting any effort into it is sexy to me.

Photography by
Kyle Goldie
Asst.
Lily Fassnacht
Haley Wilson
Stylist
Shannon Campbell
Asst.
Heather Roma
Make-Up Artist
Paloma Alcantar
Hair
Drew Noreen
Jewelry by
Kendra Scott

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Destiny
Sierra
NLM
TheNextLevelMagazine.com

HOLLYWOOD

The Comic Book Movie Casting Couch

For some reason, casting movies seems like an easy job. Maybe because casting directors seem to fail so often, we the general public, think that we couldn't possibly get it as wrong as they have. To be fair, these folks have it pretty hard. Think of having the role of Thor or Iron Man be your responsibility and getting it wrong could ruin a franchise and disappoint life-long fans. No one can deny it's quite a weight on anyone's shoulders, but sometimes is seems that they just grabbed a stack of random headshots, put their hand over their eyes and after a shot of tequila and a spin in an office chair, they chose any "random" they landed on. Sadly, we could go as far as to say that these casting directors have it easier than casting regular movies. Why? There are over a dozen knowledgeable fan sites and blogs that list their top favorites for any particular comic-to-movie character, and since these fans and geeks have lived their lives saturating their brains in the lore, they, or should we say "we" might have a little more than just a stab-in-the-dark at getting these casting choices right. If you go online, we bet you could find several Top 10 lists of actresses who could play Wonder Woman right now. Go ahead, we'll wait.

Now that the venting is over, let's get to Next Level's winners for the absolute best and epic failures from the Hollywood casting chair for Comic-to-Movie flicks.

THE HERO

BEST: Robert Downey Jr as **IRON MAN**

There are always close seconds to this category but as far as Marvel "hero" casting goes, it is clear that they are using their heads, especially in the last few years of films. We give the credit to Marvel Entertainment for keeping a close watch on their empire, and choosing "geeks" to direct these awesome movies. Simply put: Robert Downey Jr IS Iron Man. It's curious because we've noticed that Mr. Downey Jr seems to have become more like the Tony Stark character over time, not that we are complaining.

WORST: Overall **BATMAN** Casting

We could write an entire article about the Batman casting failures throughout the years. No matter what group of fans, be it movie buffs or comic nerds, you'll get a group of folks arguing over the worst Batman, not the best. It's a general census, we've found, that Chris Nolan's most recent Batman trilogy has satisfied the Batman fans but we also find that in that same group, they still can't agree who the best Batman is. So for the oh-so-many times the casting chair has been failed in this case, we've chosen Batman as the Worst Hero Casting.

BEST: Chloë Grace Moretz as **HIT GIRL**

Not only did this girl completely obliterate her role, in a good way, but she was only twelve when she did it. This was a Kirsten Dunst in Interview with the Vampire type "blow me away" performance. Let's not forget: she played a character that would give a grown actress a hard time to pull off. We would like to give an honorable mention to Jaimie Alexander for her role as Lady Sif, even though she has been forced to play second fiddle to Natalie Portman's love interest with Thor, a storyline many fans find unnecessary.

WORST: Jessica Alba as the **INVISIBLE WOMAN**
vs
Alicia Silverstone as **BATGIRL**

Yes, we've given this worst category a tie. Why? We've decided that each role was just as hard to watch as the other. Extra epic fail points go to the Sue Storm role since it was failed twice.

Want to tell the twitter world your casting choices?

#BestComicCasting

THE VILLAIN

BEST: Heath Ledger as **THE JOKER**

Granted, the Joker is a fan favorite character villain amongst comic buffs already, but to have the role done so successfully in live action is beyond satisfying. Bravo to Ledger and his complete envelopment in the character.
Lately there's been a huge surge in the popularity of a rather devious character called Loki, played by actor Tom Hiddleston. As Loki, he gets both the troubled and confused personality as well as the cleverly mischievous and often crazy character. A close second goes to you, Sir.

WORST: Julian McMahon as **DR DOOM**

It's really hard to talk about this category. #Annoyed. We just want to note that playing comic book villains should be epically awesome and fully realized. Failing at this task is painful for the fans. Casting a good actor is one thing. Acting the role knowing the lore benefits a completely different outcome.
We will say that there are so many close seconds on this one but our top worst favorites are Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze, Stephen Dorff as Deacon Frost and Colin Farrell as Bullseye.

BEST: Michelle Pfeiffer as **CATWOMAN**

She was the kitty we wanted to give a ball of string to and watch her play with before she took a nail to us. She would run her tongue over those red lips of hers and make us all nuts! And let's not forget she completely rocked as a lady with a brain full of marbles and a desire to use those nine lives. This role has been played in movies on many other occasions but never has the character been so perfectly portrayed than by Michelle Pfeiffer. We're looking forward to seeing who could pull off Harley Quinn.

WORST: January Jones as **EMMA FROST**

This is beyond confusing because it seems so neglectful to us. There are a good number of actresses who could have nailed this character but it was given to someone that just didn't quite get what was going on. We actually had a hard time choosing between Emma Frost and Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy. We think our fellow fans will agree we had our high hopes dashed by these two.

THE TEAM

BEST: **THE AVENGERS**

This cannot be denied and we expect will not be challenged. Do you remember when that first trailer came out? Loki's army was ascending to earth as the Avengers assembled in one sweeping camera move. It was worth a jump out of our seat! Holy cow, they're all on screen together! And then they fail to disappoint with their acting performance. Thank you, Joss Whedon.

WORST: **FANTASTIC FOUR** vs **BATMAN ROBIN** cast

Yep, another tie.
Granted, we're putting a team up against a cast but as both groups go, they were unsuccessful. And even though the box office was decent for these two films, we still can't get past their failed performances.

AVERAGE JOE

BEST: JK Simmons as **J. JONAH JAMESON**

This could have been an epic fail performance if they had cast someone who pushed the role beyond it's limits or didn't push hard enough. JK Simmons seemed to be the comic come to life. Many argue that this casting is one of the best in comic-to-movie history. We would agree.

WORST: Kirsten Dunst as **MARY JANE**

Three movies later and we still don't know what's going on. Perhaps we can point the finger at the director or the writer for changing the character that was written in the comics but whoever the culprit or culprits were, we still have to stamp our "epic fail" on this character interpretation.

HONORABLE MENTION

Hugo Weaving as, well... a lot of guys. Let's make something clear: Hugo Weaving is a bad ass. If you don't know why, then you need to give your geek card back. Let's list his epic role successes: V in V for Vendetta, Red Skull in Captain America and since we're at it, let's mention Agent Smith in The Matrix Trilogy, Elrond in Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, and the voice of Megatron in Transformers. Enough said.

FUTURE FILM

THE UNOFFICIALLY OFFICIAL LIST

There are an incredible number of comics that have been brought to life on the big screen. Granted, some have been epic failures but as a whole, we are just big fans of the fact that there are huge geeks and nerds with the funds, connections and know-how to bring our childhood fantasies to life.

It is looking like the 2010-2020 decade will be the second decade saturated with comic book movies. From 2000 to 2010 we had the pleasure of watching Batman be reinvented by director Christopher Nolan, Iron Man realized by great comic geek Jon Favreau with a big help from Robert Downey Jr, V for Vendetta, Sin City, Spiderman, X-Men, The Incredible Hulk and the list goes on.

We've compiled the following list from some pretty credible sources but every day is a new story. Rumors become fact and release dates get pushed back and the inconsistency definitely gives the fans a constant discussion. But regardless of all that political movie drama, we are always hopeful that the movie-makers of tomorrow will honor the lore set by a history of comic stories and bring a deeply rich script to life with actors that understand their "responsibility" to the movie and the fans and filmmakers who are such massive geeks that they make the movie as deep of an obsession as the fans have made their favorite characters. Let's continue the success (hopefully) with the following live-action future releases:

2013

Iron Man 3 [May 3]
Man of Steel [June 14]
The Wolverine [July 26]
Thor: Dark World [November 8]

2014

300: Rise of an Empire [March 7]
I, Frankenstein [January 24]
Captain America: The Winter Soldier [April 4]
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 [May 2]
Sin City: A Dame to Kill For [August 22]
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles [June 6]
X-Men: Days of Future Past [May 23]
Guardians of the Galaxy [August 1]

2015

The Fantastic Four [March 6]
The Avengers: Age of Ultron [May 1]
Ant-Man [November 6]
Untitled Superman/Batman film
(Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill CONFIRMED)

2016

The Flash
The Amazing Spider-Man 3 [June 10]
Deadpool (Ryan Reynolds CONFIRMED)
X-Force

2017

Justice League

2018

The Amazing Spider-Man 4

UNKNOWN RELEASES

Aquaman
Black Panther
The Crow
Dark Universe
Iron Fist
Luke Cage
Punisher
Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.
Man of Steel 2 (may / may not turn into the Superman/Batman flick)
Wanted 2 (without Angelina Jolie)
Wonder Woman

Batman / Superman Movie Poster
GRAPHIC ART **Josh McMahon**

LET JUSTICE BE DONE
2015

HOLLY PARKER

Getting closer to this self-proclaimed "tomboy" turned swimsuit model bombshell!

We can't help but notice your incredibly sexy. Has it always come easy to you?

I grew up in a small farm in Sedona playing Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, working on cars, welding, and playing music. I had blue hair [and] tutored other kids in math. I was kind of a nerdy, sexy tomboy. I didn't find out the sexy part until years later when a couple boys admitted they had a crush on me, to my surprise!

A tomboy? That's hard to believe!

Sometimes I have the mind of a teenage boy. I can definitely thank modeling for getting me over being shy, especially when I'm shooting swimwear on the beach!

Photography by
Kyle Goldie

Swimsuit
Ola Vida

Jewelry by
Bad Fish Booty
31 Bits
Devon Leigh

What do you have stamped on your geek card?

I'm a huge computer nerd. I taught myself how to do web design and have been a photo retoucher for 6 years. One of my favorite things to do is lay in bed and play on my computer. I'm a trekkie. I love TNG! I've always wanted to dress up as Diana Troy for Halloween.

#Follow her @HollyParkerrr

Photography by
Kyle Goldie

Swimsuit
Ola Vida

Jewelry by
Bad Fish Booty
31 Bits
Devon Leigh

Favorite Superhero?

I would have to pick a video game character and say Chun Li.

Favorite thing to do when you're not modeling?

I love playing guitar and singing, and I like to cook and make a guy feel special (and also visa versa). I'm a nerd, so I really like having "editing parties"- getting together with friends and retouching photos, editing video, web design, pretty much any kind of computer work. ... And being in my underwear. Doing everything in my underwear is always better.

Height
5'9"

Measurements
32-23-35

Relationship Status
Single

Hometown
Sedona, AZ

"Doing everything in my underwear is always better"

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

T'was the third day of Comic Con, when all through the hall, not a wookie was stirring, nothing above all. Nerds were snug tightly, in the BOOM! panel with care, with hopes that Star Wars dominating Serenity, would soon would be there.

Your favorite Comic-nerd, on the continuous venture to find more things comic at Comic.. Con, stopped into the BOOM! Studios panel last week. Of course, my hour continued the trend of other media forms taking over a room that wasn't theirs. Sitting right next to me were a couple of feuding dweebs, one (or Won?) all Mauled out in black with red face paint, and the other Mal'd in a rather dapper brown coat.

Instead of feeling excited for the history of one of the top indie comic book studios on the planet, I was more concerned with the duality of this unexpected, intergalactic habitation. Thankfully, the quality of the panel kept these kids in control.

BOOM! Studios began as a labor of love 20-years ago by founder and creator Ross Ritchie, that continues to pour out of the whole team to this day. A common thread seen throughout this panel was that BOOM! succeeds — and continues to strive – due to the creative control handed to anyone who graces their pages. That notion is all the more impressive when you see the list of Eisner Award-winning talent that has worked with them. Stan Lee, George Perez, and (even Nick Fury Jr. himself) Samuel L. Jackson, are just a few of the peeps who've contributed to BOOM!.

The origins of BOOM! trace back to when Richie was residing at Malibu Comics, and left once Marvel Comics consumed the now dead home of the Shazam-capped-wannabe, Prime. Joined by a simple salesman-turned-comic-scribe from Hollywood's Meltdown Comics, Matt Gagnon — now Editor-in-Chief at BOOM! — Richie's goal was to have a comic company that touched on all types of comics for all types of fans... and, hell, always shipped on time.

Panel attendees probably caught the same feeling as I that the history of BOOM! Studios has yet to be written. Yes, they have succeeded within the indie comic market, especially with the recent merger of Archaia Comics – best known for Mouse Guard and the Jim Henson family of stories. But, with promising adaptations such as the forthcoming Denzel Washington-meets-Marky-Mark thieves-turn-undercover actioneer 2 Guns hitting theaters this Friday (based on the Steven Grant/Mateus Santolouco graphic novel), this studio may yet be on the verge of explosion.

Boom's had an impressive pool of panelists for San Diego who pack quite the resume.

Paul Jenkins (Hellblazer, Wolverine: Origin) recently brought his 25-years of comic experience to BOOM! with the belief to stay "true to yourself creatively." The Eisner winner is best known for his work on the Inhumans and co-creation of Marvel Knights (with some guy you may know, Joe), arguably the breeding ground for the revitalization of Marvel Comics. Jenkins may have nailed it as to why BOOM! was successful at wooing over name talent from the Big 2. "Creators work for 3.5 things: money, attention, the ability to create, and the half is...because they're mental."

It's a wonder why there's such a dichotomy of "indie" comic writers who either A.) really enjoy working at Marvel and DC (Scott Snyder, Brian Bendis), or B.) feel blessed to enjoy more creative freedom when landing at either Image, Dynamite, BOOM!, etc. (Ed Brubaker, Garth Ennis). Jenkins is currently writing the gladiator arena-inspired brawler Deathmatch and his former Kick-starter-funded project, Fairy Quest, with artist Humberto Ramos.

Brian Stelfreeze recently came over from DC with his 50 cover run on Batman: Shadow of the Bat, where he received the opportunity to work with the legendary Dennis O'Neil. "A dream come true," Stelfreeze said, until this fantasy-turned-reality was short-lived once DC's theatrical Batman movies started picking up steam; with the success of Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy went the amount of creative freedom allotted to those handling the comic Caped Crusader. Thankfully, Richie picked up Stelfreeze's extreme talents, which now take precedence on Gangnon's recently sold out vampire mafia comic, *Day Men*.

Last, and certainly not least, was

the appearance of the great George Perez, known for being the only man allowed to cram 8,000 heroes and villains on one spread. His work at DC (Wonder Woman, Teen Titans) and Marvel (Avengers, Infinity Gauntlet) is world renowned, and yet, even in those respects, Perez was still disenchanted with life in the Big 2. While extremely hard to believe, Perez even came close to hanging it up. His creativity had been drained and his thirst for the next best story had withered. This newfound creative spark with BOOM! (a lucratively exclusive deal) allows Perez to do something he has not done in nearly 12-years since Crimson Plague: work on a creator-owned title.

Unfortunately, towards the end of George Perez's time for shine, the Comic Con BIG-Whigs stormed in, musket-in-tow, and cut the BOOM! panel by 15 minutes. Is the SDCC now funded by a covert operation run by the Nazi Mouse? Even if the flappy swastika-laiden ears of this rodent won today's battle, BOOM! may have a good laugh in the long run. The new Sons of Anarchy comic — which will run alongside the stories of the show and introduce new characters — is set to release the day after the season 6 premiere, September 11, and will be written by Christopher Golden (Hellboy) and drawn by Damian Couceiro (Incorruptible). The company should also see a BOOM! in sales for the next Planet of the Apes comics, as well, with the Dawn of the next flippin' ape film up on the horizon.

Lest we not forget BOOM! Managing Editor-turned-writer Bryce Carlson and artist Vanessa R. Del Ray's LA Noirish "secret police squad" comic, Hit – which looks to be a promising 1950s Hollywood homicide.. hit, based on real events told from an actual longtime LAPD vet. And, has any other children's medium received a bigger BOOM! more than Adventure Time?

◆

September 2013

GYK

Girl You Know

Amanda Rodriguez

Photography by
Jaime Morton-Hawley

Follow

@AmandaCarola

@AmandaRod_12

411

Hometown: Patillas, Puerto Rico
Height: 5'5" **Age:** 19
Measurements: 30-23-35
Relationship Status: Single
Current Job: Full Time College

Give us your geek card credits. We're all waiting to hear!

I'm a total math geek. I got my math book for next semester in advance to look at it and I'm obsessed with YouTube math tutorials. I do online math sessions and cry if I get bad grades.

A math geek? Beauty and Brain! So what do you like to do when you're not modeling?

I did a lot of promotion modeling for companies like Pepsi when I was living in Puerto Rico but I still won the second place in the Puerto Rican Regional science fair with my bacterial project. I have a trophy. It was so cool.

You're seriously the hot nerd we fell in love with in school, but Puerto Rico? Is Spanish your first language?

Spanish was my first language and 'till this day, people will talk to me and I'll smile but I won't know what the heck they are saying. I act cute and get away with it.

You're sexy and a little devious. Is that why you picked Catwoman as your fantasy?

She has everything under control. She looks like a good girl but she's really sneaky. She's hot, sexy and she's number one. I'm wearing a Batman t-shirt and I love Catwoman. It works.

When you're not modeling, are you into Comics?

I actually enjoy painting and I'm forced to do a lot of homework. I enjoy doing math. I tutor. All the math! It's ridiculous.

So those glasses, what's the story?

Those glasses are actually mine but they don't have a prescription. I've received so many complements but I just have geek-envy. I wish I had glasses for real.

The day has actually come when incredibly hot women WANT to wear glasses? Incredible! You have any other funny ideas?

I like to do random searches on Google and find funny things. I love to look at Rob Ayala's Vine videos. I'm always doing random goofy things to my friends and posting them on social media.

Does that mean you're really into funny guys?

I like tall, dark and handsome. I like facial hair and a strong jaw and cheekbones. Clean teeth and toes are a must. If you're hot and you think you're good looking or smarter than other people, that's not attractive to me. If I can hear you bragging, it's not good.

We would love to know that fantasy look you'ld love to have on your man.

I love firemen! I'm obsessed with no shirt, the helmet and those suspenders attached to those pants!

What is the Superhero on the top of your list?

I feel like everyone would pick Superman but I wouldn't. I pick Thor but I would want him shirtless with the hammer.

So were you thinking about Thor on this shoot or something else?

I think it's sexy when girls wear their man's clothes. If I had a boyfriend and he had that Batman shirt laying around, I would put it on with socks and play catch-me-if-you-can, but I would probably win becuase I'm wearing the Batman shirt.

How do I get out of the Friend Zone?

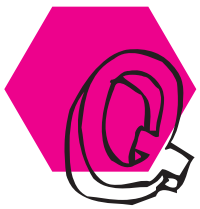
So the first step is done: You know you're there. You're basically a non-biological brother and you're not a fan. This girl will even talk about other guys around you and the hugs are less intimate than the ones she has with her dog. You're the Robin to her Batman and you're not into being the sidekick anymore.

This is a tricky situation. This is primarily going to be about presentation. You're going to have to flip the switch back to being an "option" because right now, you're not in circulation. You've become a vintage comic that's sealed and stacked on her shelf, possibly even her storage and your value is set. You're never going to get opened, Ever.

I suggest taking some time away and showing her that she misses you. Ask her out on a real date. Let her know what it is and pay for it. Make the date KNOWN. Don't let her think it's casual. You'll know quickly if she's down. Remember, there's nothing wrong with using what you know about her past relationships, what she likes and what she doesn't like, on that first date. Another big hint: make it memorable. You should know her pretty well so use that.

What Men Don' t Know: We want to be comfortable around you but we still want you to make us nervous.

And lastly, avoid going back into that Friend Zone. "Hanging out" needs to be put on hold until she's official. Remember: if she calls to "chill" that means she's available so turn that into a potential date! Also, she's your friend so respect the lady. Don't act like someone else just because you're trying to date her. Being disingenuous to impress her is going to help you lose the date, and your friend.



Why didn't she text me back?

There are far too many reasons why she does or does not do anything. Establishing a relationship on the value of text responses will start a relationship off to auto-fail. Talk about how you want your communication style to go so this is a non-issue.

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Get to know this issue's Q&A Writer:

JENNIFER

I got my start in the world at the comic shop, from dusk 'till dawn, that's where you could find me. I would play Mage Knight and I still have a ton of the characters and dice. I even played the Buffy the Vampire Slayer card game!

Now I'm far more into MMO RPG and FPS games. My preference is always PC versus console since it's far easier for me to hold the mouse than the controller. I think they should come out with different sized controllers. Our hands aren't all the same!

I'm a big fan of Cosplay! I love to go with groups. I've been Wonder Woman from the Justice League and Chun Lee from Street Fighter. I've also gone to renaissance festivals and dressed up.

I've come to understand that the bigger your geek card gets, the smaller your shame card is!

Q Why is she mad that I have my ex in my phone?

A The first thing she's probably thinking is, "why do you need her number?". It's a very touchy subject. Laziness is always a factor, and I get that but if we cannot understand your reason, it's not okay. We're women so we're going to think about every reason why you need her number and it won't be pretty. If your girl can't understand, she will jump to the first conclusion and it'll be negative every time.

If you don't want to take the moment to explain yourself, and she'll need that explanation, you'll look guilty and untrustworthy. If you aren't doing anything wrong, don't act like it. If you can't seem to come up with a reason why you still need ex's number, you're probably not over her. If that's true, there's no reason to lie about it, but you probably shouldn't be dating.

It's a really touchy subject but know that no one wants to be in a relationship with someone else's ex-drama. You wouldn't want your girlfriend's phone full of her ex-boyfriends with no explanation either. Suspicion is no good for a healthy relationship and it's juvenile to want the drama.

So why is she mad that your ex is in your phone? Honestly, she's probably having trust issues with you already. It's also pretty common that she's had a bad experience with men and their ex's in the past. There's nothing wrong with taking the time to make your lady comfortable about your past so she can see a great future... with you.

SUBMISSION

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are looking for classy, always sexy and sometimes "geek" related photography submissions. To know what we are looking for, check out our past issues.

ARTICLE

Next Level Magazine is currently accepting submissions from talented writers. NLM encourages article submissions to be **clever** and **funny** as well as **factual** and **current**. Do you think you've got what it takes? We would love to read the best you've got!

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